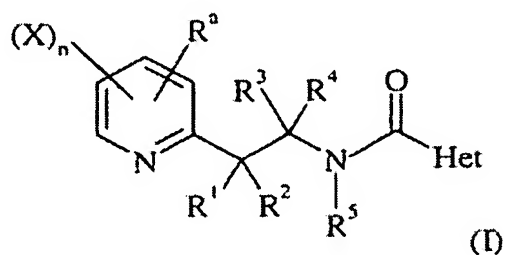


Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula (I)



in which :

- n is 1, 2 or 3;
- R^a is a C_1 - C_6 -halogenoalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms;
- each substituent X is independently selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a C_1 - C_6 -alkyl, and a C_1 - C_6 -halogenoalkyl;
- R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 are independently selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a cyano group, a hydroxy group, an amino group, a sulfanyl group, a formyl group, a formyloxy group, a formylamino group, a carboxy group, a carbamoyl group, a N-hydroxycarbamoyl group, a carbamate group, a (hydroxyimino)- C_1 - C_6 -alkyl group, a C_1 - C_6 -alkyl, a C_2 - C_6 -alkenyl, a C_2 - C_6 -alkynyl, a C_1 - C_6 -alkylamino, a di- C_1 - C_6 -alkylamino, a C_1 - C_6 -alkoxy, a C_1 - C_6 -halogenoalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C_1 - C_6 -halogenoalkoxy having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C_1 - C_6 -alkylsulfanyl, a C_1 - C_6 -halogenoalkylsulfanyl having 1 to 5 halogen

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atoms, a C₂-C₆-alkenyloxy, a C₂-C₆-halogenoalkenyloxy having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C₃-C₆-alkynyloxy, a C₃-C₆-halogenoalkynyloxy having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C₃-C₆-cycloalkyl, a C₃-C₆-halogenocycloalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C₁-C₆-alkylcarbonyl, a C₁-C₆-halogenoalkylcarbonyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C₁-C₆-alkylcarbamoyl, a di-C₁-C₆-alkylcarbamoyl, a N-C₁-C₆-alkyloxycarbamoyl, a C₁-C₆-alkoxycarbamoyl, a N-C₁-C₆-alkyl-C₁-C₆-alkoxycarbamoyl, a C₁-C₆-alkoxycarbonyl, a C₁-C₆-halogenoalkoxycarbonyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C₁-C₆-alkylcarbonyloxy, a C₁-C₆-halogenoalkylcarbonyloxy having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C₁-C₆-alkylcarbonylamino, a C₁-C₆-halogenoalkylcarbonylamino having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C₁-C₆-alkylaminocarbonyloxy, a di-C₁-C₆-alkylaminocarbonyloxy, a C₁-C₆-alkyloxycarbonyloxy, a C₁-C₆-alkylsulphenyl, a C₁-C₆-halogenoalkylsulphenyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C₁-C₆-alkylsulphinyl, a C₁-C₆-halogenoalkylsulphinyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C₁-C₆-alkylsulphonyl, a C₁-C₆-halogenoalkylsulphonyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a benzyl, a benzyloxy, a benzylsulfanyl, a benzylsulfinyl, a benzylsulfonyl, a benzylamino, a phenoxy, a phenylsulfanyl, a phenylsulfinyl, a phenylsulfonyl, a phenylamino, a phenylcarbonylamino, a 2,6 dichlorophenyl-carbonylamino group, and a phenyl group; or R¹ and R² may form together a cyclopropyl, a cyclobutyl, a cyclopentyl or a cyclohexyl;

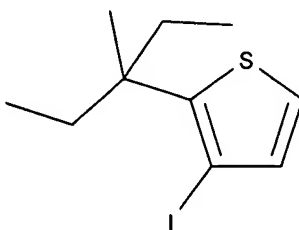
with the proviso that when three of the four substituents R¹, R², R³ and R⁴ are a hydrogen atom, then the fourth substituent is not a hydrogen atom;

- R⁵ is selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a cyano group, a formyl group, a hydroxy group, a C₁-C₆-alkyl, a C₁-C₆-halogenoalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C₁-C₆-alkoxy, a C₁-C₆-halogenoalkoxy having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C₃-C₆-cycloalkyl, a C₃-C₆-

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halogenocycloalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C₂-C₆-alkenyl, a C₂-C₆-alkynyl, a C₁-C₆-alkoxy-C₁-C₆-alkyl, a C₁-C₆-cyanoalkyl, a C₁-C₆-aminoalkyl, a C₁-C₆-alkylamino-C₁-C₆-alkyl, a di-C₁-C₆-alkylamino-C₁-C₆-alkyl, a C₁-C₆-alkylcarbonyl, a C₁-C₆-halogenalkylcarbonyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C₁-C₆-alkyloxycarbonyl, a C₃-C₇-cycloalkyl, a C₃-C₇-halogenocycloalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C₃-C₇-cycloalkyl-C₁-C₆-alkyl, a C₁-C₆-benzyloxycarbonyl, a C₁-C₆-alkoxy-C₁-C₆-alkylcarbonyl, a C₁-C₆-alkylsulfonyl, and a C₁-C₆-halogenoalkylsulfonyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms; and

- Het represents a heterocycle of the structure



Het being linked by a carbon atom;

as well as its salts, N-oxides, ~~metallic complexes, metalloidal complexes~~ and optically active isomers.

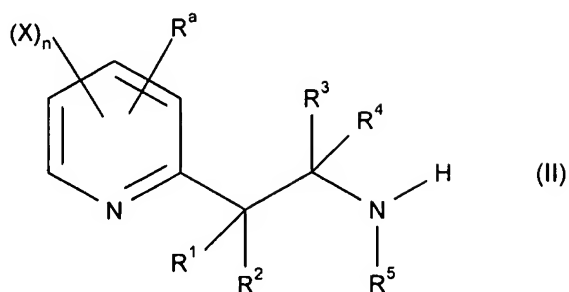
2. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 1 wherein n is 1 or 2.
3. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 1 wherein X is a halogen atom.

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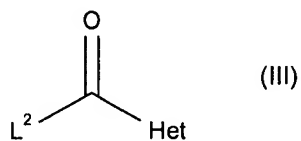
4. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 3 wherein X is chlorine.
5. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 1 wherein R^a is -CF₃.
6. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 1 wherein the 2-pyridyl is substituted in the 3- and/or in the 5-position.
7. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 6 wherein the 2-pyridyl is substituted in the 3-position by X and in the 5-position by R".
8. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 1 wherein the 2-pyridyl is substituted in the 3-position by -Cl and in the 5-position by -CF₃.
9. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 1 wherein R¹ and R² are independently selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a cyano group, a hydroxy group, a C₁-C₆-alkyl, a C₁-C₆-halogenoalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C₂-C₆-alkenyl, a C₁-C₆-alkoxy, a C₁-C₆-alkylsulfanyl, a C₁-C₆-alkylsulfenyl, a C₁-C₆-alkylsulfinyl, a C₁-C₆-alkoxycarbonyl, a C₁-C₆-alkylcarbonylamino, a C₁-C₆-alkoxycarbonyloxy, a C₁-C₆-alkoxycarbonylamino, and a phenyl group.

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10. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 9 wherein R¹ and R² are independently selected from the group consisting of a halogen atom, a C₁-C₆-alkyl, a C₁-C₆-halogenoalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, and a C₁-C₆-alkylcarbonylamino.
11. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 1 wherein R³ and R⁴ are independently selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a cyano group, a C₁-C₆-alkyl, a C₁-C₆-halogenoalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C₁-C₆-alkylcarbonylamino, and a phenyl group.
12. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 11 wherein R³ and R⁴ are independently selected from the group consisting of a halogen atom, a C₁-C₆-alkyl, a C₁-C₆-halogenoalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, and a phenyl group.
13. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 1 wherein R⁵ is selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, and a C₃-C₇-cycloalkyl.
- 14 - 15 (Canceled)
16. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 1, which comprises reacting a 2-pyridine derivative of the formula (II) or one of its salts:

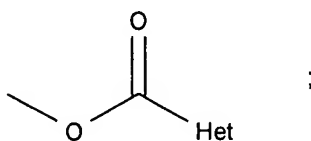


with a carboxylic acid derivative of the ~~the~~ formula (III)



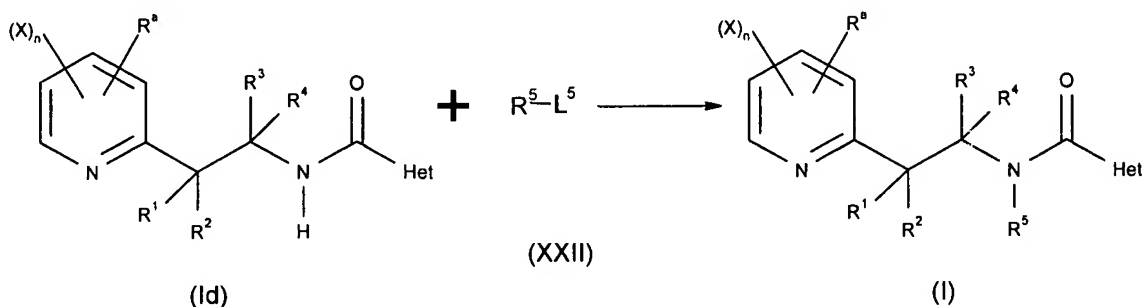
in which :

- L^2 is a leaving group selected from the group consisting of a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, -
 OR^6 , $-OCOR^6$, R^6 being a C_1 - C_6 alkyl, a C_1 - C_6 haloalkyl, a benzyl, 4-methoxybenzyl,
 pentafluorophenyl or a group of formula



in the presence of a catalyst and, if L^2 is a hydroxyl group, in the presence of a condensing agent.

17. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The process of claim 16 wherein R⁵ is a hydrogen atom and the process is completed by a further step according to the following reaction scheme:



in which :

- L⁵ is a leaving group selected from the group consisting of a halogen atom, a 4-methyl phenylsulfonyloxy or a methylsulfonyloxy;
comprising the reaction of a compound of formula (Id) with a compound of general formula (XXII) to provide a compound of formula (I).

18. (Previously Presented) A fungicidal composition comprising an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1 and an agriculturally acceptable support.

19. (Previously Presented) A method for combating the phytopathogenic fungi of crops, characterised in that an effective and non-phytotoxic amount of a composition according to claim 18 is applied to the plant seeds or to the plant leaves and/or to the fruits of the plants or to the soil in which the plants are growing or in which it is desired to grow them.